12% of Palestinians Have Fled Gaza Since Hamas Took Over

"Gaza is turning into a swamp of the desperate and the poor. Those who can leave, leave."

By Baruch Yadid | Dec 4, 2022 at 11:45 am | Topics: **Gaza**, **Hamas**

Hamas' corruption, mismanagement and singular focus on fighting Israel has left Gaza in a pit of despair. Photo: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

(TPS) In the 15 years since Hamas seized control of Gaza, 12 percent of the Strip's population has fled, according to a study released by an organization associated with the terror group. The report appears to mark the first time Hamas is acknowledging — indirectly — widespread Palestinian emigration since it violently seized control of the Strip in 2007.

The report, written by the Hamas-affiliated Council on International Relations, was published in September and recently seen by the Tazpit Press Service. It claims that over 60,000 Palestinian residents of Gaza have migrated from the Gaza Strip in recent years to escape poverty and war.

The CIR report blamed Israel's blockade of Gaza for the Strip's poverty driving Palestinians to flee. Israel and Egypt imposed

the Palestinian Authority, and rounds of conflict with Israel. The CIR did not acknowledge Hamas's authoritarian rule as a contributing factor.

"Gaza is being emptied of its residents," the authors of the report said.

The Palestinian Authority has no data on the scope of migration from the Gaza under Hamas rule. Till now, Hamas hid the data, making accurate numbers difficult for human rights organizations to gather. The CIR's chairman of the board is **Basem Naim**, who is also a senior figure in Hamas.

Various estimates in the past year shed some light on the Gaza exodus.

Between 2007-2021, approximately 236,000 Palestinians left the Strip, the Palestinian Authority's official news agency, WAFA, reported during the summer. That number is also about 12 percent of the total residents of the Strip.

Based on those numbers, it appears that an average of around 17,000 Palestinians have left Gaza every year since 2007.

The Palestinians are fleeing a bleak economic situation.

Gaza's unemployment rate stands at 74%. Those who manage to find a job earn an average yearly salary of $250. That puts 80% of Gaza's population under the poverty line. The CIR report also noted a significant increase in suicide among youth.

The motivation to emigrate is very strong and a 2019 survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that 37% of young people in Gaza want to emigrate. "Gaza is turning into a swamp of the desperate and the poor," a Palestinian researcher told TPS. "Those who can leave, leave."

Some Palestinians depart for medical treatment without returning. Others pay bribes of thousands of dollars to Hamas police at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

Sums as high as $10,000 dollars and more are paid to smugglers who take Palestinians by boat to Spain via Egypt and North Africa, or to Greece or Turkey, which are closer.

Turkey is popular destination because the cost of a visa is only $150 and Turkey has a large Palestinian community of around 30,000. It is estimated that 30% of Gaza emigres arrived in Turkey, even though the Palestinians hold a passport that allows them to enter 37 countries without a visa.

The trips are fraught with danger. Since 2014, more than 360 Palestinians have drowned in Greek and Turkish waters.

In 2020, a TPS investigation revealed that 70,000 Palestinians live in Belgium alone, of whom 50,000 had come from Gaza between 2012-2016.

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3 responses to “12% of Palestinians Have Fled Gaza Since Hamas Took Over”

1. *Mark Watkins* says:
   December 4, 2022 at 10:27 pm
   Shalom,

   I my hearts breaks for these Arabs there is no such people self named Palestinians, moreover, their olam ebah is openly taught from cradle to the grave, no people will ever be blessed of Elohim who causes a child to stumble!

   I digress, back to the point of those fleeing this place of horrors, brought on by those who have lied to their people from it’s inception, to keep them poor, the whole place and people don’t want Piece with Yisrael, they want all of Yisrael!!

   Log in to Reply

2. *Mark Watkins* says:
   December 4, 2022 at 10:28 pm
   Sorry for typos…

Log in to Reply

3. *Rex McIntosh* says:
   December 5, 2022 at 12:19 am
   Mark you do well in your second language
   The soon coming of Yeshua Ha Mashiach will overturn many norms . I wrote a song

   Imagine no dictators
   The King will rein supreme
   No more plague or sickness
   And hunger wont be seen
   Imagine snakes and lions
   The wolves are friendly too….

   You may say I'm a dreamer
   But I love Eloah 's Son
   He's the king , He's Messiah
   He's the High and Holy One

   To the tune of Lennon's Imagine.
   My guess is that Israel will have to put Gaza under military occupation and ban that pagan preaching of Islam , hopefully re educate those poor Arabs trapped in an awful hellhole

   Shalom

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